

If anyone can revitalise the Liberal Party it is Joseph Grimond who, at forty-three, is taking over from Mr. Clement Davies as leader of the party. The extraordinary fervour of his reception at the Liberal Party Conference marked the belief of the rank and file that this earnest, enthusiastic man may yet lead them to a brighter future. It spells no disregard for the great services Mr. Davies has rendered to the party over so many difficult years.

Although Mr. Grimond has personal links with the golden



MR. JOSEPH GRIMOND

age of Liberalism—he is Lady Violet Bonham Carter's son-in-law—he does not dwell in the past. His appeal will be above all to the young.

He did not come to Westminster until 1950. After the war he was director of personnel in U.N.R.R.A.'s European office and then the secretary of the Scottish National Trust. But for the last six years this slim, modest man has been his party's Chief Whip—a difficult task even though his Parliamentary party is not big enough to be at sixes and sevens with itself—and he has shown in the House of Com-

mons that he can attain considerable heights of eloquence. Now he will have the chance to fulfil his burning sense of mission, and he knows well enough that leadership is a matter of quality rather than quantity.

"News is Sacred"

THE conduct of the "Manchester Guardian" has been one of the more painful aspects of the Suez Canal crisis. Opinion is free, but there are more ways of distorting news than faking it. On Wednesday, Britain presented this fateful issue to the United Nations, a course which the "Manchester Guardian" had itself demanded. And these were its headlines to the story on Thursday across two columns on Page One:

"CRUDE PRESSURE ON EGYPT"

Soviet Criticism in the Security Council

Beneath, the story opened with fifty-five lines of Mr. Sobolev's violently anti-British speech. Sir Pierson Dixon's presentation of our case was given only thirty-two lines in the second column.

Paradise or Slum

MAURITIUS, where Princess Margaret arrived yesterday, is another case of a territory jumping out of the frying-pan of disease into the flames of overcrowding and unemployment.

In Mauritius, the complete eradication of malaria has resulted in an increase in the population of this tiny island from 440,000 to 550,000 in the last nine years.

"The population of Mauritius is today far too large to make life comfortable or secure for

anyone, and the Extremist faction has organised a movement to boycott the celebrations.

The man behind the boycott movement is a teacher and member of the Legislative Council—Bookdeo Bissoondoyal. Bissoondoyal, for many years

a thorn in the side of successful Governors, has served several terms in prison for breaches of the peace.

There is dark talk of Soviet money behind his movement, but it seems more likely that Bissoondoyal has been naturally thrown up by the same

processes of history that are changing Mauritius from a paradise island to an overcrowded slum.

Strange Affair

FAMILY quarrels inside the Brunswick - Luneburg branch of the House of

Hanover cast a cloud over the recent visit of the King and Queen of Greece to West Germany and have drawn protests to the Bonn Government. These concern: the strange treatment of the sixty-four-year-old Princess Viktoria Louise, last surviving daughter of the German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, by her son and head of the Royal House, Prince Ernst August, and by her daughter Frederike, now Queen of Greece.

The Princess was excluded from all public ceremonies and even had her car confiscated by her son during the royal visit. When the royal party visited Marburg Castle the Princess was confined to her quarters.

A statement issued by Prince Ernst August last week said that arbitration proceedings are to decide whether the Princess is suffering from strained nerves and hallucinations. "But the aged Princess is loved by the millions of Germans who live on the lands of the House of Hanover and the whole mysterious affair will certainly not be solved by this or any other arbitrary attempts to seal her lips.

Double Lives

WHEN Dame Edith Evans was married in 1925, she asked her husband whether he wanted her to give up her work. "I would rather have 20 per cent. of you alive," he replied, "than 80 per cent. of you dead."

This happy memory was prompted by the theme of last week's Woman of the Year lunch. "How to lead a successful double life," but duplicity has its trials as other guests recalled.

Miss Rosamond Lehmann's literary talents certainly seem to have thwarted her early romantic ambitions. "I can still hear the outraged cry—'You aren't brainy, are you?'—torn from the throat of one I deeply wished to attract. He did not desert me in the middle of a police, but I could feel his arm go very slack."

"We the Peoples"

IN the extracts from the Charter of the United Nations, which were printed in last week's SUNDAY TIMES, readers will have noticed the curious opening words "We, the Peoples of the United Nations, determined..."

The original draft of the Charter had no preamble. It was General Smuts who proposed some form of preface

and the first draft was submitted by the South African delegation. It began, as treaties often do, with the words "The High Contracting Parties: Determined..."

At once Dean Gildersleeve, the American woman delegate, rose to her feet. It was the American hope, she said, that the preamble would be recited in American schools and children would not understand this highfalutin' rigmarole. She proposed "We, the Peoples." And so it came about.

Brazilian Post

A CHANGE at the Brazilian Embassy is a rare diplomatic event—there have been only three Ambassadors here since 1930—and Senator Samuel Gracie, who reaches the compulsory retiring age of sixty-five in November, has already begun his round of farewells.

"I do not intend to remain idle," he tells me, and his eyes sparkle when talking of the scope for development in Brazilian oil, atomic energy, and hydro-electric power. There is room here for British industry and his own financial negotiations here have been so successful that "We can hope to see trade relations become perfectly normal in a very few months."

In 1912, when he joined the Brazilian foreign service, Senator Gracie helped to organise the first Brazilian team of a British football team. "Moran was a wonderful half-back," but his British links go back to his great-grandfather who emigrated from Dumfries in 1891. "Unfortunately he died young at sixty-two." A family history of the Gracies is now being written and he is taking back a family tree that was given to him here by a British cousin.

Liberace?

"His intimate friends called him 'candle ends' and his enemies 'toast cheese.'"
—From The Hunting of the Snake

Entertaining Risks

COVENT Garden was not insured against the £40,000 loss which might have been caused by the cancellation of the Bolshoi Ballet (the Moscow State Circus visit was covered) but there are plenty of brokers willing to consider this sort of risk. About 75 per cent. of the major London concerts are now insured by their promoters.

The principal figure in this exotic branch of the insurance industry is Lerol Flesch, son of the violinist. "I was a lawyer

in Germany before the Nazis, and when I came here I thought that this sort of work would go well with my legal training. I was quite wrong. You've got to keep lawyers out of insurance. They ruin it."

The emphasis now is on tailor-made policies with premiums ranging from 1 to 8 per cent. of the amount covered. "Mennuh has a terrific reputation. They say that he's never missed a concert and you've got to take that sort of thing into account."

During his last tour here, Gigli was insured at 5 per cent., but it seems that tenors in general are a bad risk—"when they come here from hot countries they get sore throats and go stiff."

U.S. Game Book

THE various hunting seasons are opening in the United States. When they are over, some six million big-game hunters will have accounted for approximately: deer, 12 million; antelope, 80,000; elk, 52,000; bear, 24,000; boar,



12,000; moose, 900; mountain goat, 300; mountain sheep, 250; and buffalo, forty.

The hunters will also have slain around 1,175 of each other.

This year the hunter will be even more nervous of his fellow. Hitherto, as a measure of self-protection, he has worn a bright red jacket and cap but the Fish and Game Department of California reckon that 50,000 of their 850,000 registered hunters are colour-blind. After extensive field tests, they have announced that red is definitely unsafe and that the best colour for caps and jackets is lemon yellow—a hunting fashion not yet in the shops.

Damned Impudence!

A YOUNG composer has been allowed to complain in "Soviet Music" about the banning by the Moscow Conservatoire of a Robert Burns song containing the word "Of a the alrts the wind can blow, I dearily like the weat"